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Notes. — *Nectonema agile* has been reported by Pintner (*SB. math.-natw. Cl. K. Akad.*, Wien, 13. April, 1899) from the Bay of Naples. In March a single specimen was collected and in May two others. As it is hardly credible that such a conspicuous form could have been overlooked hitherto, this sudden appearance so remote from the south shore of New England, the only locality from which it has heretofore been recorded, is certainly remarkable.

The cestodes of the Bergen Museum have recently been studied by Lönnberg (*Bergens Museums Aarbog*, No. 4, 1898). An extended study was made of *Cœnomorphus*, the peculiar tetrarhynchid larva of P. J. van Beneden. According to the author it departs widely enough from the typical tetrarhynchids to be regarded the representative of a new subfamily. Its anatomy is well illustrated, as also that of some other cestodes.

Gordii from Malaysia and Mexico are discussed by Camerano (*Atti Acc. Sci. Torino*, Vol. XXXIV, 1899). The two Mexican forms are species of the genus *Chordodes*.

The South African species of *Peripatus* are enumerated by Purcell (*Ann. of South African Mus.*, 1899), who describes seven distinct and one doubtful species. He accepts Pocock's subdivision of the genus *Peripatus* and includes the South African species in *Peripatopsis* and a new genus, *Opisthopatus*.

Maurer has placed considerable weight upon the distribution of the hair in embryo mammals as evidence for the derivation of hair from epidermal sense organs (see this journal, Vol. XXXI, p. 767). De Meijere has studied the subject and concludes (*Anat. Anz.*, Bd. XVI, p. 249) that this distribution affords little support for Maurer's views. In this connection it is to be noted that Kromayer (*Archiv für Entwicklungsmechanik*, Bd. VIII) describes the hair as having a dermal Anlage.

Negri has followed the processes described by Petrone for demonstrating the nucleus in the red-blood corpuscles in the mammals. He finds (*Anat. Anz.*, Bd. XVI, p. 33) that Petrone's methods (osmic acid, 1 : 4000; picric acid, 1 : 4000; formic acid carmine) give a differentiated central portion in the corpuscle. The same methods applied to the blood of embryonic mammals bring out a similar structure, while at the same time hæmatoxylin differentiates a true nucleus. Hence he concludes that Petrone's structure is not a true nucleus,

a conclusion which agrees well with what was previously known concerning the development of the red corpuscles.

Gustav Fornier points out (*Biol. Centralblatt*, Bd. XIX, p. 549) that the lizard, *Lygodactylus picturatus*, and several other species of the genus are provided with a sucking disk at the end of the tail, similar in structure to those on the toes.

BOTANY.

Colors of Flowers. — The author of this contribution¹ to the discussion of the origin and significance of color in flowers has evidently set out with a clearly defined purpose. In his preface he declares that he was not entirely satisfied with the soundness of the theories of Grant Allen and of Hermann Müller, whom he brackets together as authorities. Moved by this discontent, he investigated the coloration of many flowers (and of some other things), and this little work embodies his results.

Briefly stated, Mr. Hervey's conclusions are to the effect that Grant Allen's hypothesis in regard to the sequence of colors, namely, that yellow is the primitive color, and that white, red or purple, violet or blue are more highly evolved colors, is an untenable one. Müller's statements in regard to the preferences of certain insects for especial colors are taken up in some detail and considerable evidence is adduced in the attempt to show that insects are somewhat indifferent to color, and that many of them, honey bees for example, find very inconspicuous and partially concealed nectariferous flowers by "instinct." Bumblebees, by some inscrutable neglect of evolution or Providence, have unfortunately been left out in the distribution of this instinct and have to get along without it, making up, however, to some extent for the lack of it by the brutality with which they bite through corolla tubes and help themselves to nectar.

The author offers "as an original solution of the subject [of the origin of honey-guides]" the statement: "This richness of color [in *Tropæolum*] is occasioned by the irritating influences of the bees in traversing the same route to and from the nectary, thus stimulating the flower to send more of its peculiar pigment to this point, same

¹ Hervey, E. Williams. *Observations on the Colors of Flowers*. New Bedford, 1899. 8vo, 104 pp.